

~~SECRET~~

AR-D-0370

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

24 March 1952

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director (Plans)

FROM : Assistant Deputy Director, Plans (Administration)

SUBJECT : OSO Staff Study Concerning Personnel Ceiling

The OSO staff study is, in effect, simply a request to be excepted from the application of ceilings, and in this request is contained the proposal that an enlarged T/O constitute the base or framework upon which the expression of the OSO mission be placed. I wish to make these comments:

1. I have one hundred percent sympathy with, and agreement in, the DCI's objective, to serve which he imposed a flat ceiling determination. This is the only way to stop the varying and unsatisfactory growth manifestations which we have been seeing. Doubtless, the Director contemplates subsequent gradual release and specific controls to fit the rehabilitated mission conception of the Agency. Also, without doubt, the Director recognizes that the ceiling decision hits the offices equally and arbitrarily, and soon would produce a grievous distortion. It is to control release from flat ceiling in the interests of priority of Agency mission that these comments are directed.

2. It is basic that we remember the OSO mission as an integral part of the over-all Agency mission, as opposed to the operations activities of OPC. These activities can be turned off or on to fit changing world situations and any modification of United States Government policy. The OSO mission, on the other hand, is a long term programming effort, looking toward progressive development which gets the United States out of its short pants in a permanent activity. It must not suffer from growth distortions of OPC.

3. The OSO growth has been most moderate, controlled and completely compatible with a sensible and progressive development. It is suggested that this growth, as shown in the attached paper, is really not incompatible at all with the Director's objective.

4. The present authorized T/O of OSO (departmental and overseas) is [REDACTED], and it is responsive only to the major portion of the OSO mission as of February 1951.

The present day statement of mission, as expressed in the T/O is _____. (to be determined)

* Summary as of 8 February 1952, and these figures exclude military and contract personnel

~~SECRET~~

Security Information

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SECRET
Security Information~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X9A2

The existing ceiling on OSO (departmental and overseas) is, [REDACTED]

25X9A2

The personnel on board (inclusive of those in process) is, [REDACTED]*.

Compare this with OSO's present statement of capacity, excerpted as follows:

".....Clandestine intelligence capabilities (of OSO) are so limited, when compared with over-all intelligence requirements, that it is no longer a question of choosing between good operations and bad operations, or between priority targets and non-essentials,..... OSO does not now possess, and cannot reasonably hope to develop in the near future, sufficient competence, maturity and facilities to mount a major operational effect in more than a few priority areas....."

5. A T/O represents, at any given time, a statement of personnel needs and organization set-up to discharge a mission. It is an essential descriptive base to lay on any and all preparations for competence to ensure discharge of mission. The establishment of it does not prohibit limited action as to speed of growth, if desirable, but without it such action is unintelligent and is not responsive to number, type or character of over-all mission or parts of the over-all mission.

6. The problem posed by the OSO paper is a basic one, as suggested in the preceding, but also, in effect, asks for further establishment of Agency priorities within the over-all mission.

7. Therefore, my interpretation of the OSO paper is that it asks for three things:

- A. Continuance of its moderately progressive personnel improvement on the base that such is not incompatible with the Director's ceiling imposition.
- B. The need for today's T/O to be recognized and set.
- C. Determination of Agency priority of mission.

* Summary as of 8 February 1952, and these figures exclude military and contract personnel

SECRET

Security Information

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~
Security Information

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8. I wholeheartedly support the OSO position and recommend appropriate action by DD/P and DD/A to this end.



25X1A9a

Attachment
AR-D-0085

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~
Security Information